

Connecticut Tax News

quarterly

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A PUBLICATION OF THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES

From the Commissioner

I am very pleased to announce that I have been reappointed and reconfirmed to a second four-year term as Commissioner of Revenue Services by Governor John G. Rowland and the

Connecticut House of Representatives, respectively. I am honored that the Governor and our state legislators recognize the very positive direction of DRS over the

past four years, and that they have confidence in my continued leadership for the future. I believe their support directly reflects the favorable opinion of DRS today by their constituents and mine — the taxpayers of Connecticut.

I am proud of the outstanding accomplishments of DRS during my first term. These have encompassed internal reorganizations for streamlined management, development of user-friendly tax policy and forward-looking legislative action. Beginning with the Tax Amnesty Program in 1995 and continuing through to our landmark Financial Services legislation last year, DRS has been charting new courses for tax administration nationwide. Today, DRS is recognized as an innovative leader in the field by other state tax agencies, non-governmental organizations, and even the federal government.



► **COMMISSIONER**, page 2

Managed Compliance and Audit Program Proposed

DRS is proposing new legislation that will enable the Commissioner to enter into managed compliance agreements and audit agreements with eligible taxpayers.

A managed compliance agreement provides for one or more effective use tax rates for purchases subject to use tax and provides a method to reconcile the effective use tax rate with the taxpayer's actual liability. Under the conditions of a managed audit agreement, DRS will provide guidelines for participating in a managed audit agreement, accept the taxpayer's determinations, review audit results and issue an audit determination.

The proposed legislation also includes provisions for waiving certain interest charges that apply up to the date of the notice of assessment.

The goal of a managed audit and compliance program is to make better use of DRS

► **Managed Compliance**, page 2

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The Exploding World of Electronic Filing

The number of electronically filed returns is up 35%, including a 96% increase in on-line filings. As of March 8, 1999 DRS has received more than 2600 returns filed on-line. Of all returns received thus far, 41% have been non-paper returns.

Not so computer savvy? Don't worry, we have you connected! Connecticut residents can file their income tax returns electronically as part of the Federal/State Electronic Filing (ELF) Program. Federal and Connecticut tax returns can be filed electronically by visiting a tax preparer who is authorized to transmit returns

State Agencies Assigned Exemption Numbers

DRS, in cooperation with the Comptroller's Office of the State of Connecticut, issued tax exemption numbers to Connecticut state agencies. These numbers will help remedy the ongoing difficulty state agencies and their retailers have had substantiating an agency's tax-exempt status.

Qualifying state agencies are exempt from sales and use tax when they purchase or lease

► **Electronic Filing**, page 2

► **Exemption Numbers**, page 2

The Mission of the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services is to administer the tax laws of the State of Connecticut and collect the tax revenues in the most cost effective manner; achieve the highest level of voluntary compliance through accurate, efficient and courteous customer services; and perform in a manner which instills public confidence in the integrity and fairness of the State's tax programs.

MANAGED COMPLIANCE, from page 1
resources while preserving compliance, provide clear direction for the taxpayer regarding what is taxable, and enable taxpayers to keep better records.

The legislative proposal is the culmination of a study conducted by DRS together with practitioners and other corporate representatives who participated on the Managed Compliance Task Force during the fall of 1998.

(See *DRS Tax News*, September 1998 and December 1998 for other articles about managed compliance.) T_N

EXEMPTION NUMBERS, from page 1

tangible personal property or services. They still must get DRS advance approval for sales and use tax exemptions for meals and lodging. The state agency exemption numbers were sent to all qualifying state agencies in late January. T_N

Asistencia en Español

Para asistencia en español, marque el numero cinco. Beginning April 1, 1999, volunteer taxpayer assistants will be ready to provide income tax assistance to our Spanish-speaking population. DRS Taxpayer Services will launch this new service by adding an option to CONN-TAX.

After choosing **Option 0**, Spanish-speaking taxpayers will be directed to choose **Option 5**, directly connecting them to a Spanish-speaking tax assistant. These tax assistants are DRS employees volunteering to help out during the filing season. This pilot program will operate only during the income tax filing season.

Tax assistance in Spanish and other languages is available at other times of the year by special arrangement. However, the service may be expanded to include other taxes, such as sales and use taxes, and perhaps other languages if needed. This endeavor was made possible with the help of employees of the Taxpayer Services Division; the Agency's *Diversity and Equal Opportunity Advisory Committee's Subcommittee for Special Projects*; and DRS employee volunteers. Elaine Leon, Director of Taxpayer Services is overseeing the program. T_N

My personal vision for DRS for the next four years is to continue the momentum in very positive directions on every front. Providing excellent customer service remains my highest priority. Look for expanded on-line services that provide more taxpayer information and take the effort out of filing tax returns and remitting taxes. Among the services we expect to add are on-line filing, use of charge cards and debit cards, and direct deposit availability for more taxpayers.

In the compliance area, my goal is to raise levels of voluntary compliance even higher in all taxpayer categories. Programs already underway such as the Nexus Project, Voluntary Disclosure and the Internet Top 100 Tax Delinquency List demonstrate our commitment to this area of tax administration. If approved by the General Assembly, our Managed Compliance and Managed Audit Programs are expected to have very positive results, as well as enthusiastic support from taxpayers. DRS will also be looking at other ways that we can encourage taxpayers to pay what is due and owing, voluntarily and on time.

Commissioner from page 1

I pledge to continue my efforts to work for clarity and equity in the Connecticut tax statutes. I am very proud that during the past four sessions of the General Assembly, DRS has been responsible for proposing more than 34 successful initiatives that make our tax laws more user friendly, while also boosting the attractiveness of Connecticut for both individual and business taxpayers.

Within the Agency organization, I will continue to implement the recommendations of our business planning process as we work toward our full realization of the Integrated Tax Administration System (ITAS). Although Y2K compliance may have slowed down some of our plans for technology upgrades, now that our successful completion of that project is in sight, DRS can re-focus on ITAS.

DRS employees are to be commended for their willingness to embrace the changes that have streamlined our operations. They are among the most talented and dedicated people in state government today. I value their continued support for me as Commissioner and look forward to working with them during the next four years.

ELECTRONIC FILING, from page 1

electronically. DRS is helping to promote ELF by posting on its Web site a list of all electronic return originators (ERO) that have been approved by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The list is by town to enable taxpayers to locate an ERO easily.

Individuals can also file their Connecticut income tax returns without leaving the comfort of their homes. While surfing the Web, taxpayers can stop at the DRS Web site and link to other Web sites that allow surfers to file their tax returns on-line. However, be aware that the company providing the on-line filing service may charge a service fee. In addition, some off-the-shelf, tax preparation software packages include a similar on-line filing service.

Why file electronically? Electronic filing is fast, easy and efficient—everyone benefits! Most taxpayers will get both their federal and state refunds faster. Electronic filers are assured of accurate transmission and acknowledgment of receipt of returns from the IRS within 48 hours and from the State within 72 hours. DRS benefits from increased accuracy of documents, and increased efficiency in forms processing. The IRS promotes wider acceptance of electronic filing through the cooperative Federal/State Program. Your state return must be transmitted with the federal return. If the federal return has been accepted and the state return is rejected, the state return cannot be retransmitted electronically. T_N

New Deputy Commissioner Appointed

Fred H. "Ted" Lovegrove, Jr. joins DRS as Deputy Commissioner

Fred H. "Ted" Lovegrove, Jr. has joined DRS as Deputy Commissioner, filling a position that has been vacant for almost a year. Prior to this appointment with DRS, Deputy Commissioner Lovegrove served for 16 years as a State Senator from Fairfield. He also spent twelve years working in consumer finance.


While a State Senator, Mr. Lovegrove served on numerous committees, including the Housing Committee, the Public Safety Committee, the Appropriations Committee, and the Finance Committee. During the first two years of the Rowland Administration, at the onset of Welfare Reform, Mr. Lovegrove chaired the Human Services Committee. For sixteen years, he served on the Program Review & Investigations Committee, three of which was as

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Chairman. He rates serving on this committee as most enjoyable, because this year-round committee was not restricted to a specific section of government. (Mr. Lovegrove was pleased to say that this committee never had to review and investigate DRS!)

Deputy Commissioner Lovegrove was also active in the real estate business while a State Senator. He had his own real estate office when first elected in 1982. He closed this office last year.

When asked about his thoughts after a short time on the job, Deputy Commissioner Lovegrove noted that our Collection and Enforcement Division was run very similarly to the collections industry in the private sector.

The Deputy Commissioner indicated that he represented the DRS on the Bonding Sub-committee this year and it was an interesting perspective to be sitting on the "other side." Lovegrove also remarked that many DRS employees graciously welcomed him and stopped by his office to introduce themselves. 

Special Alert for Practitioners and Software Companies

The 1997 and 1998 Instructions to Form CT-6251, Connecticut Alternative Minimum Tax Return – Individuals contain a typographical error. The instructions for Line 5 to taxpayers who are married filing separately and arrived at an amount on Line 5 that was greater than \$165,000 should read as follows: "If your filing status is married filing separately and Line 5 is more than \$165,000, you must include an additional amount on Line 5. If Line 5 is \$255,000 or more, include an additional \$22,500 on Line 5. Otherwise, include 25% (.25) of the amount on Line 5 in excess of \$165,000."

The amount at which taxpayers were to add an additional \$22,500 was inadvertently printed as \$225,000 instead of \$255,000.


The instructions will be corrected on future printings of this product.

CERT-122, Certificate for Refund of Sales Tax Paid on Exempt Qualifying Purchases of Meals or Lodging by an Exempt Organization or Qualifying

Governmental Agency, was reissued 2/99. An incorrect telephone number was listed in the second paragraph under the heading for Nonqualifying Purchases in the certificate issued earlier. The telephone number given to reach the Refund Unit of the DRS Audit Division was incorrect. The correct number should be **860-541-3253**.

FORM RR-210, Gross Earnings on Railroad Companies, Rev. 12/98, contains a typographical error. On page 4, under Tax Rate Table, the percentage for OVER 14% AND NOT OVER 15% is incorrect. The correct language should be OVER 14% AND NOT OVER 16%. Please use Rev. 2/99.

FORM CT-1040ES Coupon Package, 1999 Estimated Connecticut Income Tax Payment Coupon for Individuals, mailed to individuals who filed estimated coupons in 1998 contains a typographical error. A percentage was inadvertently preprinted on Line 19 of the Taxpayer's Worksheet (page 2 of the coupon package). In order for taxpayers to enter the amount of each

installment, a percentage should not have been preprinted on Line 19. Line 18 - Installment Percentage, should have .25 preprinted in the column for entering figures. The line instructions for Lines 18 and 19 remain unchanged. DRS will correct the taxpayer's worksheet on future printings of this product. 

Ideas Welcomed for Connecticut Tax News

As a new feature of Connecticut Tax News, the DRS Tax Products Group (TPG) now has an e-mail address for reader's comments.

As creators of the newsletter, TPG wants to hear from you. What issues would you like to see addressed in upcoming editions of *Connecticut Tax News*? Do you have specific tax related questions to ask the DRS?


Please forward your comments or suggestions by e-mail to:

drs.tpg@po.state.ct.us

Connecticut Telefile Program is Expanded for 1998

DRS understands that taxpayers have busy schedules and need a quick and easy way to file their tax returns. For the 1998 filing season, DRS has expanded the Telefile service to enable approximately 700,000 taxpayers to use the user-friendly Telefile service. Expanding the Telefile Program is another example of DRS's ability to use state of the art technology to ease the filing burden for Connecticut taxpayers. Taxpayers who use Telefile complete only nine lines of the Telefile Worksheet and enter a few numbers on the keypad of a telephone. The Telefile System does the rest. Confidentiality of taxpayer information is maintained by a 4-digit personal identification number (PIN) that has been specially assigned by DRS.

The Telefile Program offers taxpayers several advantages over filing paper returns. First, the Telefile call can be made twenty-four hours a day and takes only minutes to complete. Second, the DRS Telefile system automatically calculates the tax, taking into account the reduced income tax rate and the increased property tax credit. No tax tables or calculators are necessary. And best of all, refunds are mailed in four business days after the call.

Taxpayers who were not selected to Telefile will receive the standard **Form CT-1040EZ** or the **Form CT-1040** booklet. Taxpayers who received the personalized Telefile Booklet by mail and do not wish to Telefile should visit the DRS Web site or a Connecticut library, post office, town hall or DRS regional office for a regular **Form CT-1040** or **Form CT-1040EZ**. 

New CONN-TAX Options

CONN-TAX has always been a great way for tax practitioners and taxpayers to get answers "after hours" concerning refunds, income tax, sales tax and forms. The income tax booklets contain a listing of all the menu options for CONN-TAX.

Connecticut Income Tax FAQs

Who is entitled to the Property Tax Credit?

Connecticut residents who paid property taxes on their primary residence or privately owned or leased motor vehicle to a Connecticut city or town are allowed a credit up to \$350 against their 1998 Connecticut income tax liability. The credit is available to Connecticut residents who have paid property tax bills that first became due and were paid in 1998.

If the property taxes are payable in two or more installments, any of the installments that became due in 1998 and paid in 1998 may be included in the credit calculation. For example, if the second installment of your 1997 property tax bill was due in January 1998 and was paid in 1998, that payment may be included in the credit calculation. Payments made in 1999 may not be included in the property tax credit calculation for 1998. (For more information see *Take Property Tax Credit to Cut Connecticut Taxes*, on page 5.)

Is it possible that my social security income is subject to Connecticut income tax?

Yes, social security benefits are subject to Connecticut income tax if you are required to include a portion of your benefits in your federal adjusted gross income. However, for Connecticut income tax purposes, the portion that is subject to taxation is less than the portion that is subject to federal income tax. Connecticut taxation of social security benefits is limited to **25% of the benefits received**. Use the social security benefits adjustment worksheet included in the instructions to Schedule 1 of Form CT-1040 and Form CT-1040NR/PY to determine the portion of benefits that are taxable for Connecticut income tax purposes.

If your social security benefits are not taxable for federal income tax purposes, they are not taxable for Connecticut income tax purposes.

How can I estimate my Connecticut income tax if I do not earn my income evenly throughout the year?


If your income varies during the year, you may benefit from using the annualized income installment method to calculate your estimated income tax installments for one or more periods. Instead of paying your required annual payment in four equal installments, you may be able to reduce or eliminate one or more installments. However, you will be required to make larger installments for the period or periods when more of your income is earned.

What if I make a mistake when Telefiling my return?

In most cases, if you make a mistake while Telefiling, you can correct it over the phone by following the Connecticut Telefile Worksheet instructions. However, in some cases, you must file an amended return.

New for the 98/99 season, the booklets now list the Telefile options.

Effective January 1, 1999, the new option for registration information, will help taxpayers with questions concerning how to properly register

with DRS. The sales tax portion of CONN-TAX has been expanded to include a segment for new businesses. To further assist taxpayers, starting in March there will be options in Spanish (see *Asistencia en Español*, page 2.) 

After you enter each item from your Telefile Worksheet, Telefile will tell you the item that you entered. Verify that the item or amount is correct. If the entry is correct, Telefile will tell you to press 1 to confirm. If it is not correct, press 2 to reenter the item.

If you realize that you made a mistake after confirming an item but before entering your PIN signature in Item 17, you may hang up and start again. Everything that you entered will be erased.

Please note that when you enter your PIN signature in Item 17, the return is considered signed. You must stay on the line for the eight-digit confirmation number from the Telefile service for the return to be considered filed. If you realize that you entered incorrect information, after Telefile provided you with your confirmation number, you must file Form CT-1040X with DRS.

When is the rebate that I received in 1998 subject to income tax?

You do not have to report your state tax refund or the Connecticut rebate, if for the **1997** tax year, you filed federal Form 1040EZ or federal Form 1040A, or if you telefiled your federal information. Also, if you took the **standard deduction** on your federal Form 1040, you do **not** have to report the rebate or refund as income on your 1998 federal income tax return.

However, if you **itemized** your **1997** deductions for federal income tax purposes, you should have received federal Form 1099-G from DRS in early February. You **must** report this rebate or refund, or both, as income on your 1998 federal Form 1040.

If the state tax refund or rebate is subject to federal income tax, it is **not** subject to state income tax. You can subtract the federally taxable state refund and/or the rebate from your federal adjusted gross income by using the appropriate line on the 1998 Connecticut income tax return (Form CT-1040EZ, Line 2; Form CT-1040, Schedule 1, Line 41; Form CT-1040NR/PY, Schedule 1, Line 43; Connecticut Telefile Worksheet, Item 5).

When I converted my traditional IRA to a ROTH IRA is the income that is recognized for federal purposes subject to Connecticut income tax?

Yes, if you converted your traditional IRA to a Roth IRA, the income that is recognized for federal income tax purposes is subject to Connecticut income tax. Connecticut follows the federal income tax treatment of any income recognized from the conversion of a traditional IRA into a Roth IRA. If you chose to spread the conversion over a four-year period, Connecticut will tax only the portion that is included in federal adjusted gross income in each of the four years. If the income from the conversion is all recognized for federal income tax purposes in 1998, it will also be taxable for Connecticut income tax purposes in 1998. ¶

Check Out Our New Look!

DRS Tax News is now Connecticut Tax News.

The Department of Revenue Services is pleased to give **Connecticut Tax News** a new look. The new style of **Tax News** will allow for easier reading in a more eye-catching format. We are excited to bring you this new design and encourage any comments or suggestions you may have on how we can make this publication better. Please send correspondence concerning Tax News by e-mail to: drs.tpg@po.state.ct.us ¶

Take Property Tax Credit to Cut Connecticut Taxes

Connecticut residents need to remember to take advantage of the property tax credit to reduce their Connecticut income tax liability for 1998. According to a DRS survey, as many as 10% of eligible taxpayers did not claim the property tax credit for 1997. The 1998 maximum property tax credit is \$350 per return, an increase of \$135 over the maximum property tax credit that was available for the 1997 income year. Taxpayers should complete **Form CT-1040EZ**, Schedule 2EZ, or **Form CT-1040**, Schedule 3, to determine the amount of credit that they may claim. Taxpayers who Telefile need not make any calculations. The Telefile system will automatically calculate the allowable credit.

The property tax credit is available to Connecticut residents who have paid property tax to a Connecticut political subdivision on a primary residence or motor vehicle, or both. The minimum credit is \$100 or the amount of property tax paid, whichever is less. Taxpayers who have paid more than \$100 in property tax may be subject to a limitation based on their Connecticut adjusted gross income.

Taxpayers should review their property tax bills and receipts to determine which property tax payments qualify. Qualifying property payments include payments that were made during 1998 on bills that first became due during 1998 for which the taxpayer is liable (or if filing a joint return, for which the taxpayer or the taxpayer's spouse, or both are liable) on a primary residence or privately owned motor vehicle. Property tax bills payable in installments and supplemental property tax bills that first became due during 1998 also qualify for the credit if payment was made during 1998. Property tax bills that are payable in installments are "first" due on the date designated by the Connecticut political subdivision as the date when the installment is due and payable.

For more information about the 1998 Property Tax Credit, see **IP 97(9.1)**, Q & A: *Income Tax Credit for Property Taxes Paid to a Connecticut Political Subdivision*. This publication and a property tax credit calculator that automatically calculates the property tax credit are available from the DRS Web site. ¶

Connecticut Tax Calendar

If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, the next business day is the due date.

MARCH

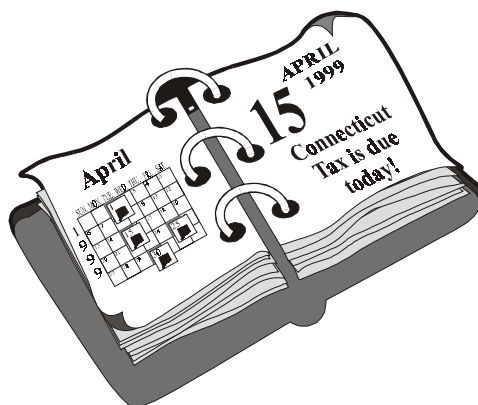
- 1** Corporation Business Tax Return for year ending November 1998
- 15** Estimated Corporation Business Tax Payment
 - Form CT-1120 ESA for year ending December 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESB for year ending September 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESC for year ending June 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESD for year ending March 1999*
- Estimated Insurance Premiums Tax Payment, 1st Installment
- 25** Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax Return
- 31** Admissions, Dues and Cabaret Return
- Room Occupancy Tax Return - Monthly Filers
- Sales and Use Taxes Return - Monthly Filers

APRIL

- 1** Community Antenna TV Systems Return
- Corporation Business Tax Return for year ending December 1998
- Telegraph and Cable Companies Return
- 15** Estimated Connecticut Income Tax Payment for Individuals, Trusts and Estates, 1st Installment 1999
- Estimated Connecticut Group Income Tax Payment 1st Installment 1999
- Estimated Connecticut Composite Income Tax Payment 1st Installment 1999
- Connecticut Income Tax Return
- Connecticut Partnership Income Tax Return
- Connecticut S Corporation Information and Composite Income Tax Return
- Connecticut Group Income Tax Return
- Connecticut Gift Tax Return
- Estimated Corporation Business Tax Payment
 - Form CT-1120 ESA for year ending January 2000*
 - Form CT-1120 ESB for year ending October 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESC for year ending July 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESD for year ending April 1999*
- Individual Use Tax Return
- Unrelated Business Income Tax Return (Domestic Trusts)
- 25** Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax Return
- 30** Admissions, Dues and Cabaret Return
- Connecticut Quarterly Reconciliation of Withholding
- Dry Cleaning Surcharge Return
- Hospital Gross Earnings Tax Return
- Motor Carrier Road Tax Return
- Petroleum Companies Gross Earnings Tax Return
- Room Occupancy Tax Return - Monthly Filers
- Sales and Use Taxes Return - Monthly and Quarterly Filers

MAY

- 1** Corporation Business Tax Return for year ending January 1999
- 15** Connecticut Unrelated Business Income Tax Return (corporations)
- Estimated Corporation Business Tax Payment
 - Form CT-1120 ESA for year ending February 2000*
 - Form CT-1120 ESB for year ending November 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESC for year ending August 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESD for year ending May 1999*
- 25** Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax Return
- 31** Admissions, Dues and Cabaret Return
- Room Occupancy Tax Return - Monthly Filers
- Sales and Use Taxes Return - Monthly Filers



JUNE

- 1** Corporation Business Tax Return for year ending February 1999
- 15** Estimated Connecticut Income Tax Payment for Individuals, Trusts and Estates, 2nd Installment 1999
- Estimated Connecticut Group Income Tax Payment 2nd Installment 1999
- Estimated Connecticut Composite Income Tax Payment 2nd Installment 1999
- Estimated Corporation Business Tax Payment
 - Form CT-1120 ESA for year ending March 2000*
 - Form CT-1120 ESB for year ending December 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESC for year ending September 1999*
 - Form CT-1120 ESD for year ending June 1999*
- Estimated Insurance Premiums Tax Payment, 2nd Installment
- Unrelated Business Income Tax Return (Foreign Trusts)
- 25** Motor Vehicle Fuels Tax Return
- 30** Admissions, Dues and Cabaret Return
- Room Occupancy Tax Return - Monthly Filers
- Sales and Use Taxes Return - Monthly Filers

DRS Tax Product Update

DRS recently issued the following tax products. You can get these and other forms and publications any hour of the day, seven days a week, by visiting the DRS Web site at <http://www.state.ct.us/drs> or by calling DRS TaxFax at 860-297-5698 from the handset attached to your fax machine.

You can now order forms and publications by sending us an e-mail at ctforms@po.state.ct.us, or by calling CONN-TAX, the DRS information line. Call 1-800-382-9463 (in-state) or 860-297-4753 (anywhere) 24 hours a day, and press 2 to order forms and publications.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (AN)

AN 98(3), *Transfers, Payments or Delivery of Property of a Decedent's Estate Without the Written Consent of the Commissioner*

AN 99(1), *Obtaining Connecticut Informational Publications in Booklet Form*

INFORMATIONAL PUBLICATIONS (IP)

IP 92(2.5), *Connecticut Income Tax Information for Military Personnel and Veterans*

IP 92(5.8), *Estimated Connecticut Income Taxes*

IP 93(6.5), *Guide to Calculating Your Annualized Estimated Income Tax Installments and Worksheet CT-1040AES*

IP 95(2.1), *Guide to Connecticut Corporation Business Tax*

IP 97(9.1), *Q & A: Income Tax Credit for Property Taxes Paid to a Connecticut Political Subdivision*

IP 99(1), *Connecticut Income Tax Withholding Requirements for Connecticut Employees, Is My Withholding Correct?*

IP 99(2), *State Tax Tips for Senior Citizens*

IP 99(4), *Numerical Index to Rulings and Administrative Pronouncements as Affected, if at*

all, by Later-issued Rulings and Pronouncements (as of January 1, 1999)

IP 99(5), *Topical Index to Rulings and Administrative Pronouncements Covering Sales and Use Taxes (as of January 1, 1999)*

IP 99(6), *Topical Index to Rulings and Administrative Pronouncements Covering Miscellaneous Taxes and Administrative Topics (as of January 1, 1999)*

IP 99 (7), *Topical Index to Rulings and Administrative Pronouncements Covering Income Tax (as of November 1, 1998)*

IP 99(8), *Topical Index to Rulings and Administrative Pronouncements Covering Corporation Business Tax*

POLICY STATEMENTS (PS)

PS 99(1), *Sales and Use Taxes on Meals*

PS 98(7), *The Motor Vehicle Rental Surcharge and the Tourism Account Surcharge*

PS 98(8), *Exemption from Sales and Use Taxes for Items Used Directly in the Biotechnology Industry*

SPECIAL NOTICES (SN)

SN 99(1), *1998 New York State Legislation Affecting The Connecticut/New York Reciprocal Tax Program*

SN 99(2), *1998 Legislative Changes Affecting the Confidentiality of Returns and Return Information*

DRS Extends Hours For Filing Season

To assist Connecticut income tax filers during the 1998 filing season, Commissioner Gene Gavin has extended the Agency's taxpayer assistance hours. Taxpayer Services Division Representatives will take telephone calls and answer any Connecticut income tax questions during extended hours in April.

In addition, the Department of Revenue Services office at 25 Sigourney Street in Hartford will have extended hours on April 14 and April 15, 1999 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for walk-in assistance or to drop off your

Connecticut income tax return. All other DRS Regional Office locations will close, as usual, at 5:00 p.m.

Extended Telephone Hours

**1-800-382-9463 (in-state) or
1-860-297-5962 (anywhere)**

Thursday	April 1 (until 7 p.m.)
Saturday	April 3 (8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)
Thursday	April 8 (until 7 p.m.)
Saturday	April 10 (8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)
Monday	April 12 (until 7 p.m.)
Tuesday	April 13 (until 7 p.m.)

Extended Telephone and Walk-in Hours

25 Sigourney Street, Hartford Only

Wednesday **April 14** (until 8 p.m.)

Thursday **April 15** (until 8 p.m.)

Walk-in service and tax booklets are available at DRS Regional Offices in Bridgeport, Hamden, Hartford, Norwich and Waterbury between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Connecticut tax booklets are also available in most Connecticut libraries, post offices, town halls and many banks.

For Tax Forms, Publications or Personal Assistance

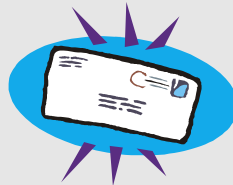
- Visit the DRS Web site at: www.state.ct.us/drs



- Call CONN-TAX at 1-800-382-9463 (in-state) or 1-860-297-5962 (anywhere)

TTY, TDD and Text Telephone users only may transmit inquiries 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 860-297-4911.

- Write to: Department of Revenue Services
Taxpayer Services Division
25 Sigourney Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5032



Forms and publications may be obtained 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by using any of the following resources:



Internet: Preview and download forms from the DRS Web site at www.state.ct.us/drs

DRS TaxFax: Call 860-297-5698 from the handset attached to your fax machine



E-mail: E-mail your request for forms to:
ctforms.drs@po.state.ct.us

Telephone: From a touch-tone phone 24 hours a day call 1-800-382-9463 (in-state) or 860-297-4753 (DRS Forms Unit). Select Option 2 from either menu.



For free assistance on forms, visit our offices from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday). For pre-recorded directions to DRS offices, call CONN-TAX. If you require special accommodations, please advise the Department representative.

BRIDGEPORT

10 Middle St.
203-579-6251

HAMDEN*

2105 State St.
203-789-7516

HARTFORD

25 Sigourney St.
860-297-5962

NORWICH*

2 Cliff St.
860-889-2669

WATERBURY*

91 Schraffts Dr.
203-596-4310

*These offices will be moving in 1999. To verify the address, please call before you visit.



CONNECTICUT TAX NEWS, from the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services, is published five times a year.

This newsletter is designed to provide general information to taxpayers and tax practitioners. It is not designed to explain in depth a current Department policy affecting the liability of taxpayers. Nothing in this publication supersedes, alters, or otherwise changes the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, regulations, Department rulings or tax information publications.

Gene Gavin, Commissioner

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